

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 14, 1971

SENSITIVE - EYES ONLY

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. H. R. HALDEMAN

FROM: RICHARD V. ALLEN *RA*

SUBJECT: EMK

Some time ago I heard from a knowledgeable friend that Kennedy has a financial interest in the Toyota distributorship for New England. The subject came up again the other day, and my friend insists that it is a fact, although a carefully submerged one.

It seems that Norton Simon and Pat Brown were in competition with the Kennedy group for the entire Mid-Atlantic region distributorship, and the Simon-Brown group won. At that time, the Mid-Atlantic region included the Boston area. The Kennedy people were alleged to be angry, and pushed hard enough on Toyota to spin off New England to them.

At one point, I am told, Kennedy himself was produced to help convince Toyota that there was an official "Washington interest" involved.

A Fitzgerald apparently runs the show for the EMK group; another fellow named Butler is also in the group. Together, I am told, there are "four or five" Kennedy guys on the board of the Boston outfit, and all have been said to be engaged in fund-raising for Kennedy.

If this can be verified, the information could be particularly significant in labor circles. At a minimum, it could be suggested that the Japanese are involved with Kennedy funding.

In August, Kennedy visited (per Caulfield) with a wealthy Japanese in Hawaii, J. Otani, who has a palatial residence there. I do not have any information on the Japanese, and do not know whether he is connected with Toyota.

In my judgement, this is worth investigating.

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